

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

at a computer, receiving a user selection of a set of conditional rules from a plurality of sets of conditional rules, wherein each set of conditional rules is implemented in a separate order-handling program that is executable by the computer, said order-handling including routing orders to at least one of a plurality of markets,

at [[a]] the computer, receiving an order from a user for processing in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules, and

at the computer, routing executing the order-handling program configured with the selected set of conditional rules to route the order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with [[a]] the set of conditional rules selected from a plurality of sets of conditional rules by the user.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules is embodied in a decision table that provides a facility for defining conditions to occur and a facility for defining actions to be taken.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules ~~depends on~~ routes the order in accordance with one or more relationships represented by respective codes defined between the user and the plurality of markets.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules ~~depends on~~ routes the order in accordance with a characteristic of the order characteristics.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules ~~depends on the~~ routes the order in accordance with information provision and order processing characteristics of the at least one of a plurality of markets.

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of conditional rules includes a discovery strategy and an action strategy, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for whether and how to obtain price quotations for the at least one of a plurality of markets, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the discovery strategy includes discovery from at least one informal market provided by a liquidity provider not subject to regulation by a government securities regulation agency at the time the set of conditional rules is executed.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the discovery strategy includes a discovery methodology selected from at least two of [[:]] (i) conducting no discovery, (ii) accessing a market status board maintained by a trading platform on which the plurality of markets executes, the market status board including price quotation information from at least one of the plurality of markets, (iii) querying selected ones of the plurality of markets, and (iv) obtaining information from an advisory process.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the action strategy comprises the results of conditional rules that are applicable because of characteristics of at least one of the order and the market.

21-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the order is routed to at least two markets.

32. (New) A system for facilitating trading, comprising:

a computer having a selection component operable by a user to select a set of conditional rules from a plurality of sets of conditional rules, wherein each set of conditional rules is implemented in a separate order-handling program that is executable by the computer, said order-handling program being configured to route orders to at least one of a plurality of markets,

wherein the computer further has an order component and an execution component, the order component being operable to receive an order from a user for processing in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules, and the execution component being operable to execute the order-handling program configured with the selected set of conditional rules to route the order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with the set of conditional rules.

33. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is embodied in a decision table that provides a facility for defining conditions to occur and a facility for defining actions to be taken.

34. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is executable by the execution component to route the order in accordance with one or more relationships represented by respective codes defined between the user and the plurality of markets.

35. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is executable by the execution component to route the order in accordance with a characteristic of the order.

36. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules is executable by the execution component to route the order in accordance with information provision and order processing characteristics of the at least one of a plurality of markets.

37. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the set of conditional rules includes a discovery strategy and an action strategy, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for whether and how to obtain price quotations for the at least one of a plurality of markets, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters.

38. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the discovery strategy includes discovery from at least one informal market provided by a liquidity provider not subject to regulation by a government securities regulation agency at the time the set of conditional rules is executed.

39. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the discovery strategy includes a discovery methodology selected from at least two of (i) conducting no discovery, (ii) accessing a market status board maintained by a trading platform on which the plurality of markets executes, the market status board including price quotation information from at least one of the plurality of markets, (iii) querying selected ones of the plurality of markets, and (iv) obtaining information from an advisory process.

40. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the action strategy comprises the results of conditional rules that are applicable because of characteristics of at least one of the order and the market.

41. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the selected set of conditional rules, when executed, is configured to route the order to at least two markets.

42. (New) A computer-accessible medium having executable instructions stored thereon for facilitating trading, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause a computer to:

receive a user selection of a set of conditional rules from a plurality of sets of conditional rules, wherein each set of conditional rules is implemented in a separate order-handling program that is executable by the computer, said order-handling program being configured to route orders to at least one of a plurality of markets;

receive an order from a user for processing in accordance with the selected set of conditional rules; and

execute the order-handling program configured with the selected set of conditional rules to route the order to at least one of a plurality of markets in accordance with the set of conditional rules.

43. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is embodied in a decision table that provides a facility for defining conditions to occur and a facility for defining actions to be taken.

44. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order in accordance with one or more relationships represented by respective codes defined between the user and the plurality of markets.

45. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order in accordance with a characteristic of the order.

46. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order in accordance with information provision and order processing characteristics of the at least one of a plurality of markets.

47. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules includes a discovery strategy and an action strategy, the discovery strategy specifying parameters for whether and how to obtain price quotations for the at least one of a plurality of markets, and the action strategy specifying order processing parameters.

48. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 47, wherein the discovery strategy includes discovery from at least one informal market provided by a liquidity provider

not subject to regulation by a government securities regulation agency at the time the set of conditional rules is executed.

49. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 47, wherein the discovery strategy includes a discovery methodology selected from at least two of (i) conducting no discovery, (ii) accessing a market status board maintained by a trading platform on which the plurality of markets executes, the market status board including price quotation information from at least one of the plurality of markets, (iii) querying selected ones of the plurality of markets, and (iv) obtaining information from an advisory process.

50. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 47, wherein the action strategy comprises the results of conditional rules that are applicable because of characteristics of at least one of the order and the market.

51. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 42, wherein the set of conditional rules is configured to route the order to at least two markets.